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Superintendent Date1

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**ZION NATIONAL PARK**  
**36 CFR 1.7 (b) Compendium**

**Authority**

Under the authority of 16 U.S.C., Section 3, and Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Chapter 1, Parts 1-7, a Superintendent's Orders Compendium is established for Zion National Park. Regulations listed in this compendium are requirements in addition to those listed in the specific section found in Title 36 unless otherwise noted. The specific authority for this regulatory procedure is found in Section 1.5, 1.6, and 1.7 of Title 36.

**Designations, Closures, Permit Requirements, and Other Restrictions**

**S1.5 Closure and Public Use Limits**

*(a)(1)(i) - Cliff faces and rock formations occupied by nesting peregrine falcons will generally be closed from February 15 through July 31.*

Nesting territories often contain multiple nesting sites, therefore specific closures will be issued each season as nesting behavior is determined. A list of specific closed sites/climbing routes will be available at the park Visitor Center.

**Justification:** the peregrine falcon, though recently removed from the Endangered Species list in 1999, requires continued protection. These restrictions are necessary to provide the falcons with an undisturbed opportunity to raise and fledge their young.

*(a)(1)(ii) - The Weeping Rock Parking Area is closed to all vehicles or combinations thereof exceeding nineteen feet in length.*

**Justification:** vehicles exceeding this length cannot safely negotiate the small turning radius within this parking area and, if allowed into this area, they create traffic congestion that is unacceptable and great inconveniences for other area users.

*(a)(1)(iii) - Travel by motorized vehicles on the Canyon Scenic Drive during the shuttle operation season (usually April through October) is prohibited without a permit.*

The types of uses and restrictions are outlined in the park SOP, entitled "Red/White Permit Program – 4/06 revision"

**Justification:** Shuttle operation and restrictions on private-vehicle use along the scenic canyon drive permit large numbers of visitors to use Zion Canyon while significantly reducing traffic congestion, noise, parking problems and associated impacts to natural resources.

*(a)(1)(iv) - The Lava Point, West Rim Roads and the Lava Point Campground are closed to all vehicles, and combinations thereof, exceeding nineteen feet (5.85 meters) in length.*

**Justification:** there is insufficient space within these areas to allow vehicles exceeding the specified length without causing safety and congestion problems.

*(a)(1)(v) - The three Emerald Pools and Heaps Canyon Creek, from Upper Emerald Pools to the base of the Navajo Formation, are closed to swimming, bathing, and wading.*

**Justification:** the integrity of the pools and creek has been drastically altered by human activity, especially the long tradition of swimming/bathing. This can create a negative visitor experience as the ability for visitors to enjoy the natural sounds of the area is diminished.

(a)(1)(vi) - *All watercraft use in all watercourses in the Park, to include the Virgin River, require a permit.*

The types of watercraft permitted are those specifically designed and manufactured for whitewater use. Operators must be equipped with USCG approved personal flotation safety devices (PFD). The above watercraft will be allowed by permit only on the North Fork of the Virgin River during periods of the year when the flow in the river exceeds 140 cubic feet per second (cfs) at USGS stream gage 09405500 (Virgin River at Springdale). For trips involving any area north of the Temple of Sinawava, the level will be determined by the minimum flow for the 24 hours preceding the request for the permit. For trips involving any area south of the Temple of Sinawava, the flow will be based on a current reading. Recreational inflatable tubes are not allowed on any watercourses within the park boundaries.

**Justification:** While the use of watercraft is generally not considered appropriate, it is recognized that during certain times of the year and under certain conditions, runoff through the North Fork of the Virgin River makes floating this stretch of water a unique, challenging, and rewarding recreational experience.

During the busier visitation months, conflicts with other park users have indicated that watercraft use is not in keeping with the unique and spiritually refreshing qualities afforded by a quiet desert stream such as the North Fork of the Virgin River.

The Virgin spinedace spawning season is approximately from mid March to July 1st. Water levels during significant run-off events in late spring, would be high enough that spinedace would not likely be affected by the type of watercraft mentioned above.

(a)(1)(vii) - *The North Fork of the Virgin River above Big Springs is closed when it is flowing in excess of 120 cfs.*

*The North Fork of the Virgin River below Big Springs is closed when the North Fork of the Virgin River is flowing in excess of 140 cfs.*

*Kolob Creek is closed when the North Fork of the Virgin River exceeds 120 cfs or Kolob Creek exceeds the following limits:*

- Kolob Reservoir to Oak Creek; 5 cfs*
- Oak Creek to MIA Route; 10 cfs*
- MIA route to North Fork; 15 cfs*

-Flow rates for the North Fork of the Virgin River will be determined using the USGS gauge #940550 (North Fork of the Virgin at Springdale).

-Flow rates for Kolob Creek will be determined based on information received from the Washington County Water Conservation District.

-During spring runoff, the level will be determined using the maximum flow during the proceeding 24-hour period.

-During periods other than spring runoff the level will be determined using current readings.

-Permits will also not be issued for any canyon hike in the park once a flash flood warning has been issued by the National Weather Service. Permits will not be issued until 8 hours after the flash flood warning has been lifted. During this period, the Narrows beyond the end of the Riverside Walk is closed to all entry.

**Justification:** Experience has shown that an average visitor cannot safely traverse the Zion Narrows above Big Spring when flow rates are in excess of 120 cfs.

Experience has also shown that an average visitor can safely traverse the section of the North Fork from Big Springs downstream to the end of the Riverside Walk at slightly higher levels (140 cfs).

When the Washington County Water District releases water from the Kolob Reservoir, a potential for a flash flood can be created in Kolob Creek. Experience has shown that there are upper limits for safe hiking for the average hiker through Kolob Creek.

(a)(1)(viii) - *Petroglyph Canyon is limited to group sizes of 12 persons or less.*

**Justification:** Do to the limited size of the areas from which to view the rock art panels, group size limits are needed. Sandy soils in this area also cannot support high visitor traffic

(a)(1)(ix) - *Tour buses are prohibited from parking at the Petroglyph Canyon pullout area and any pullout or parking area between Petroglyph Canyon and the Zion-Mt Carmel Tunnel. Tour buses waiting for an escort through the Zion-Mt Carmel Tunnel may wait at the “bullpen” pullout.*

**Justification:** Due to the narrow roadway, large groups of people walking on or alongside the roadway pose a safety hazard to themselves and others.

(a)(1)(x) - *Government and concession housing areas are closed to public access.*

**Justification:** limiting public access to residential areas will provide improved security and privacy to residents while not adversely impacting park visitors.

(a)(2)(i) - *A permit is required for:*

- *any through day hike of any tributary of the North Fork or the Virgin River, all Left Fork hikes regardless of the direction of travel,*

- *or any hike normally involving the use of descending equipment or other aid within any canyon in the park. Descending equipment is defined as any rope, webbing, or other device used for descent.*

- *travel above the Moki Steps in Orderville Canyon.*

- *travel upstream of Big Springs in the North Fork of the Virgin River.*

(A) All canyons in the 2001 General Management Plan (page 41) mapped as primitive are limited to 50 people per day. Canyons in the primitive zone include the Left Fork of North Creek (Subway), Orderville Canyon, Pine Creek, and Keyhole Canyon.

(B) All canyons in the 2001 General Management Plan (page 41) mapped as pristine are limited to 12 people per day. Canyons in the pristine zone include Mystery Canyon, Behunin Canyon, Spry Canyon, Kolob Creek, Heaps Canyon, Imlay Canyon, and many other of Zion’s technical canyoneering routes.

(C) The Virgin River Narrows is restricted to 80-day hikers per day from Chamberlain’s Ranch to Big Springs. From Chamberlain’s Ranch to Big Springs, only downstream travel is permitted with a permit.

**Justification:** due to the unique and often-times pristine quality of Zion’s narrow canyons, resource impacts must be carefully monitored and managed. Permits provide a means to assess the amount of use a particular canyon is receiving, as well as providing management with a tool to limit the number of users so that the resource is protected, and visitor experience is maintained.

(a)(2)(i)(A) - *A permit is required for any backcountry activity that has a planned duration in excess of 24 hours*

Activities occurring in the backcountry, that have a planned duration in excess of 24 hours (e.g. marathon hikes or climbs not involving “camping”, are normally of such a nature that in order to avoid unnecessary SAR responses it is beneficial for the Park to be aware of trip plans.

(a)(2)(ii) - *Research Natural Areas (RNA) are closed to all recreational use.*

*They include the following areas:*

-**Kolob Mesas:** Mesa tops of Timber Top Mountain and Nagunt Mesa overlooking the Kolob Canyons. Also includes canyon draining west from Timber Top Mountain.

-**Shunes Creek:** Shunes Creek Canyon below the Navajo Sandstone cliffs along the southern boundary of the park, excluding the administrative zone around the water right diversion.

-**Hanging Garden:** Five hanging gardens in Zion and Parunuweap Canyons. Includes the immediate vicinities of -Grotto Spring, Weeping Rock, Sinawava Hanging Garden, and two unnamed springs in Parunuweap Canyon.

-**Isolated Mesa Tops:** Isolated mesa tops that are surrounded by high cliffs of Navajo Sandstone. These include -**Burnt Mountain** (south of La Verkin Creek), Greatheart Mesa, Inclined Temple, four unnamed high mesas west of Horse Pasture Plateau, and two closely associated unnamed mesas north of Wynopits Mountain.

-**Goose Creek:** The sandstone slot canyons of Goose Creek, which drains east from Lava Point and Horse Pasture Plateau. A five-mile long tributary of the North Fork of the Virgin River with deep narrow canyons and perennial stream flow in the lower reaches.

-**Crazy Quilt Mesa:** The top of Crazy Quilt Mesa and adjacent slopes, east of Checkerboard Mesa Slickrock: An area of slickrock buttes, slopes and traverses, south of Clear Creek, east of Gifford Canyon and around the head of Crawford Wash.

-**Slickrock:** An area of slickrock buttes, slopes and traverses, south of Clear Creek, east of Gifford Canyon and around the head of Crawford wash.

-**Southeast Pinyon Juniper:** An area of relatively deep sandy soils supporting relict pinyon-juniper forests in the southeastern most corner of the park.

-**Parunuweap:** Includes the Parunuweap and most of Shunes Creek Canyons below the Navajo Sandstone, and Transview mountain above the Navajo Sandstone.

**Justification:** In concurrence with the approved General Management Plan, the above areas are closed to recreational use. These RNA's are field ecological areas designated primarily for research and education and/or to maintain biological diversity. Baseline inventory and long-term ecological observations will be emphasized in these areas, with the primary purpose of creating an ecological/environmental benchmark over time.

(a)(2)(iii) - *The Zion-Mt. Carmel Tunnel is closed to all vehicles at or above 7'10" (main body) in width and/or 11'4" in total height; except under the auspices of a Special Use Permit as allowed under S1.6.*

All non-retractable attachments (mirrors, awnings, bumpers, etc.) are considered part of the main body.

**Justification:** after consultation and survey by the Federal Highway Administration that this tunnel has insufficient clearances to safely allow traffic exceeding this size to pass through, except under escort as provided for by Special Use Permit.

(a)(2)(iv) - *The following are prohibited from traveling on the Zion-Mt. Carmel road from the junction with the Canyon Scenic Drive east to the park entrance station:*

-*vehicles greater than 13'1" high*

-*vehicles with a single or combined gross weight greater than 50,000 pounds;*

- *single vehicles greater than 40' long;*

-*commercial tour busses greater than 50' long;*

-*combined vehicles that are greater than 50' long;*

-*combined vehicles where the distance between the hitch attachment of the towing vehicle and the rear-most axle of the towed vehicle exceeds 26 feet.*

**Justification:** restricted use on this portion of road is necessary to maintain traffic safety on a narrow road with sharp curves, which also has a narrow low clearance tunnel.



(a)(2)(v) - *Pedestrians and bicycles-riders are prohibited through the Zion-Mt. Carmel Tunnel. Bicycles must be transported through the tunnel by a motor vehicle.*

**Justification:** bicycles must be transported through the Zion-Mt. Carmel Tunnel to ensure the safety of bicyclists and to maintain traffic safety in this 1.1 mile long unlit tunnel.

(a)(2)(vi) - *The Kolob Terrace Road from the bottom of Maloney Hill to the northern park boundary, and the Lava Point and West Rim Roads within the boundaries of Zion National Park, will be closed to all vehicles, except snowmobiles, when it is determined by the Superintendent that road conditions due to snow are either unsafe or susceptible to unwarranted damage due to vehicular traffic.*

Snowmobile travel as regulated by S7.10 is allowed.

Closure will be accomplished with gates, signing, and press notification. Snowmobile use during this time will be restricted to established unplowed roadways only.

**Justification:** In the past, wheeled vehicles and snowmobiles have traveled the same sections of snow-covered roadway. The mixed-traffic use resulted in hazardous conditions where wheeled vehicles have broken through the snow damaging the underlying roadway and snowmobiling surface. The National Park Service will close the road to vehicles, except snowmobiles to eliminate the hazard, road damage, and to lessen conflict between snowmobiles and the motor vehicle public.

Executive Order 11644 (2/8/72) and Order 11989 (5/24/79) directs that units of the NPS are closed to snowmobile use unless specifically opened in a given area and only allowed where it will not adversely affect the natural, aesthetic, or scenic values of the parks. The above does allow for the required access to private lands.

(a)(2)(vii) - *Commercial buses parked or sitting must have their vehicle engines shut off, except during the loading or unloading of passengers.*

*Generators may not be left running on any unattended vehicle.*

**Justification:** the noise and air pollution associated with generators and diesel-powered buses left running for any period of time within the park is unacceptable.

(a)(2)(viii) - *Group size in the pristine and primitive zones, as defined in the 2001 Zion General Management Plan, shall not exceed 12 people sharing the same affiliation (school, church, club, scout group, family, friends, etc., or combination thereof) in the same drainage or on the same trail on the same day.*

This applies to people traveling or camping together, and it applies to day use as well as overnight use.

Groups larger than 12, sharing the same affiliation, may divide into groups smaller than 12, provided they do not occupy the same drainage or the same route on the same day.

**Justification:** Larger groups have been shown to create unacceptable resource impacts as well as noise impacts that adversely affect the experience of other visitors when traveling through the backcountry of Zion National Park. It has been demonstrated that large groups traveling and/or camping in the same drainage or on the same route routinely divide into smaller groups only to reassemble at some point along the trail.

(a)(2)(ix) - *The Zion-Mt. Carmel Tunnel is closed to any vehicle transporting hazardous materials in such quantity as to require an identification placard (as specified by U.S.DOT regulations).*

**Justification:** In order to minimize the potential for closure of the tunnel, it has been determined that vehicles which carry hazardous materials and are required to display placards designating the type of material being transported may not travel through the tunnel. As an alternative, these vehicles may utilize either of the two state highways, which border the park to the north and south.

(a)(2)(x) - *Transport of any unprocessed plant, soil, or stone materials is prohibited, unless packaged; contained or covered in a manner that prevents their scattering or release.*

Hay, straw, mulch or feed grain that is certified weed-free, by the Utah Department of Agriculture or comparable authority, and documented as such, is exempt from this requirement.

**Justification:** the spread of invasive, non-native plants is having serious impact on park ecosystems. These plants can be spread by attaching to vehicles and/or as propagules transported in hay, feed, soil and stone products. This regulation conforms generally to requirements of the Utah Noxious Weed Act.

(a)(2)(xi) - *Behunin Creek and Heaps Creek as they drop from Middle to Lower Emerald Pool, and Echo Creek as it drops into Weeping Rock are closed to climbing and any form of descending, including rappelling.*

**Justification:** Due to the very fragile hanging gardens and beautiful waterfalls, ascending/descending at these locations conflicts with their inherent natural and scenic values. Additionally, both of these areas are heavily used by park visitors, and ascending/descending at these locations presents an unacceptable safety risk to those below due to the potential for injury from dropped gear (ropes, hardware, etc.) as well as displaced rocks.

## **S1.6 Permits**

(f) The following activities enumerated by individual sections require a permit issued by the backcountry office or other administrative personnel, subject to additional requirements as applicable:

S1.5 (a)(1)(vi) Watercraft use permits

S1.5 (a)(2)(i) Narrow canyon day hike permits

S1.5 (a)(2)(i)(A) Any backcountry activity that has a planned duration in excess of 24 hours

S1.5 (a)(2)(iii) Convoy permits for restricted use on Zion-Mt. Carmel Road

S2.10 Overnight camping

S2.10 Overnight Wall climbers

S1.5 Commercial Filming permits

S1.5 Special Use Permits (Wedding, Events)

S1.5 Incidental Business Permit (Commercial Use Authorizations)

S1.5 Research Collection Permit

S1.5 Sale and distribution of printed material

S1.5 Public assemblies, meetings, gatherings, demonstrations, parades and public expressions of views

## **S2.1 Preservation of Natural, Cultural, and Archeological Resources**

(a) *The gathering, possession and consumption of all wild fruits, berries and nuts or domestic fruit, berries and nuts are limited to quantities which are consumed the same day.*

**Justification:** this limited use of these renewable resources will not adversely affect park wildlife, the reproduction of any plant species, or other park resources. Traditional use and collection by Native Americans is allowed as defined in the Memorandums of Understanding with local tribes claiming affiliation with the park.



## S2.2 Wildlife Protection

*(d) The transportation of lawfully taken wildlife over publicly-owned park lands is allowed on the Kolob Terrace Road, all roads open for public travel within the Lava Point road network (except Lava Point Campground), those roads on park lands necessary for egress from private inholdings, the Zion-Mt. Carmel Highway, and the Horse Ranch Mountain Road. Wildlife must have an appropriate state tag attached to the animal in accordance with state regulations.*

**Justification:** It is not the intent of the Superintendent to impede activities such as legitimate hunting in state-regulated areas in inholdings or near the park, nor is it the intent to allow transport of lawfully-taken wildlife in areas of the park not necessary for orderly flow of traffic between an individual's residence and place of legal taking of wildlife.

*The park is closed to the use of artificial light for purposes of viewing wildlife.*

**Justification:** spotlighting may potentially disturb wildlife, and the intent is to prohibit this activity to minimize this disturbance.

## S2.10 Camping and Food Storage

*(b)(8) - A backcountry permit is required for all backcountry camping.*

The current edition of the "backcountry planning map" can be referenced for areas/sites available for backcountry camping.

Additionally, certain extended technical climbs and canyon routes may be eligible for backcountry camping permits.

*(b)(9)(i) - Overnight camping in developed campgrounds is limited to eight persons, with four tents, two vehicles or four motorcycles.*

*Campsite checkout time is 11:00 a.m.*

A vehicle is considered any car, R.V. or trailer. Vehicles must be parked completely on the graveled parking pad provided at each site. Tents must be placed within the delineated site pads. If no pad is available then tents must be within 20 feet of each campsite's fire grate. Parties larger than eight persons must occupy the group camping area.

*(b)(9)(ii) - The C and D loops of Watchman Campground are closed to recreational vehicles.*

A recreational vehicle is defined to include any vehicle, driven or towed, equipped with permanently installed sleeping, cooking, and/or water storage facilities.

Camper vans with a gross vehicular weight of 4,500 pounds or less, such as Westfalias or other similar conversion vans are not subject to this restriction.

**Justification:** Tent camping loops were designated as such to provide campers with a degree of separation from large recreational vehicles. These camper vans are no larger than many tent camping support vehicles.

*(b)(9)(iii) - Group camping in the Watchman designated group campground is by reservation only and is limited to groups of nine or more persons, to a maximum as allowed at each individual site.*

*Group camping is only available from April 15 - October 31 with a seven-day maximum limit.*

*Vehicles may be parked only in the designated parking area for the assigned campsite.*

*(b)(9)(iv) - Camping in developed campgrounds is limited to fourteen days from April 15 through October 31, and thirty days for the remainder of the year.*

*Camping in the backcountry is limited to 14 days per permit with the exception of a one-night limit in the Virgin River Narrows and in Hop Valley Site A, when used as a horse camp.*

*Persons may not camp within the park (developed & backcountry) for a continuous period greater than 14 days and after 14 days may not camp again within the park for a period of 14 days.*

**Justifications:** in the interest of equitable allocation and use of facilities, certain restrictions are needed on camping activities. Limitations on camping days provide the opportunity for a camping experience to the greatest number of people in heavy use campgrounds and assure the park is not used as a semi-permanent residence beyond the intent in providing the facility.

*(b)(9)(v) - The attaching or suspending of any item from trees or any other type of vegetation is prohibited, except when such action is the only manner available for tent campers to make their food supply unavailable to animals.*

**Justification:** The attaching or suspending of items from trees has resulted in damage to park resources in the past and is not consistent with the purpose for which the campgrounds were developed.

*(b)(9)(vi) - The use of electrical generators is prohibited at all times in all loops of Watchman Campground.*

*The use of electrical generators is prohibited in South Campground, except for the periods between 8am to 10am and 6pm to 8pm.*

**Justifications:** Watchman campground has two loops that have electrical hookups for campers. South campground does not offer electrical hookups and use of electrical generators is permitted on a limited basis. In the interest of protecting natural and aesthetic values associated with camping the noise associated with electrical generators must be limited.

*(d) - Food must be stored inside a vehicle or a secure lockable hard sided container in all drive-up campgrounds, except for food that is being transported, consumed, or prepared for consumption.*

**Justification:** Due the presence and adaptability of animals, especially the deer population which frequent these areas for food, it has been determined that the opportunistic feeding of the animal population, may pose health concerns to the animals over time.

### S2.13 Fires

(a)(1)(i) - *Fires in developed areas are allowed only in designated government receptacles such as found in the campgrounds and picnic areas or in private-enclosed grills where no scorching of the ground surface occurs. If a private-enclosed grill is used, all ashes must be thoroughly extinguished, cooled, and removed from the park or placed in trash receptacles.*

(a)(1)(ii) - *Fires are prohibited in non-developed areas, i.e., all park areas exclusive of Watchman, South and Lava Point Campgrounds, the associated campground picnic areas, and the Grotto Picnic Area.*

**Justification:** in the interest of protection of environmental or scenic values, protection of natural resources and public safety, that restrictions on fires are necessary. Fire restrictions do not affect the use of stoves or lanterns for camping purposes.

### S2.14 Sanitation and Refuse

(b) - *Human waste must be either carried out in personal-backcountry toilet bags, or buried at least four to six inches 200 feet from water sources. Toilet paper must be carried out. Big wall climbers will have to tube their human waste while on multi-day wall climbs.*

**Justification:** human body waste is a threat to public health and environmental and scenic values.

### S2.15 Pets

(a)(1) - *Pets are prohibited on all trails (with the exception of the Pa'rus trail) and in the backcountry. No pets, other than service animals, are allowed on the park transportation shuttle buses.*

Properly restrained pets are allowed along public roads and parking areas (generally within 25 yards of the road surface), in the developed campgrounds and picnic areas, and on the grounds at the Zion Lodge.

(a)(3) - *Pets may be left unattended in developed campgrounds provided all other requirements (of this section) are observed. Unattended pets observed making unreasonable noise will be considered prima facie evidence of failure by the owner to meet requirements of (a)(4) of this section.*

**Justification:** consistent with public health and safety, protection of natural resources and avoidance of conflict among visitor use activities, pets must be restricted. The burden is placed on pet owners to assure their pets do not destroy park values for others in those areas where they are allowed.

## S2.16 Horses and Pack Animals

(a) “Saddle stock” is defined, for purposes of the Zion National Park General Management Plan, as stock carrying either riders or equipment/supplies and is limited to horses, mules, and burros.

“Pack animals”, for purposes of 36 CFR 2.16(a) are defined as mules and burros. Llamas, goats, dogs, and all other animals are specifically excluded for use as pack animals within Zion National Park.

(b) *The use of saddle stock or pack animals is prohibited, except in the following areas:*

The following trails are open to horse or pack animal use:

- LaVerkin Creek Trail west of Beartrap Canyon
- Hop Valley Trail
- Connector Trail
- Northgate Peaks Trail
- Wildcat Canyon Trail
- West Rim Trail north of Cabin Spring
- Sawmill Spring Trail
- Telephone Canyon Trail
- East Mesa Trail east of the Observation Point Trail junction
- East Rim Trail south of Stave Spring
- Deer Trap Mountain Trail
- Cable Mountain Trail
- Chinle Trail
- Sandbench Trail. This trail is only open to public use from November 1 to March 1.

Off-trail use of horses or pack animals is permitted only in:

- lower Coalpits Wash from the trailhead to the junction with Scoggins Wash
- Scoggins Wash
- Huber Wash

Horse or pack animal use on backcountry trails is prohibited during spring thaws, during unusually wet periods, and at other times when, at the Superintendent’s discretion, use would cause undue trail damage.

NPS administrative uses are exempt in these areas for the purpose of resource/visitor protection and the utilization of minimum tool for trail maintenance.

(g)(1) - *Grazing of horses or pack animals within park boundaries is not allowed.*

Stock must be fed only certified weed-free feed two days prior to entering the backcountry. Stock users are required to pack feed such as grain or pellets that are certified as weed-free. This feed must be protected from animal depredation and any unused feed must be packed out. A feed bag must also be used in the backcountry. Stock manure must be collected upon unloading and loading from trailers with the manure removed from the park to reduce the potential for exotic plant introduction.

(g)(2) - *Overnight camping with horses or pack animals is limited to Hop Valley Site A, and is permitted for one night only.*

(g)(3) - *Horses or pack animals will be hobbled or tethered on a high line (6-7 feet) between trees, or otherwise restrained in a manner preventing damage to trees. Animals will not be picketed or tied to a single tree.*

(g)(4) - *Horses or pack animals will be kept more than 200 feet from any spring, stream, or other water source unless in the act of watering, riding or leading the animal near or across the water as a necessary function of backcountry travel.*

*(g)(5) - A maximum of 6 horses or pack animals are allowed in any single party traveling in Zion National Park. These groups may not be split up as referenced in section 1.5 (a)(2)(viii).*

The concessionaire contracted Bryce-Zion Trail Rides is excluded from this restriction while traveling along the Sandbench trail for commercial horse trail rides.

**Justification:** The traditional use of horses, mules, and burros within the park is historically documented and their continued presence is conditionally permitted. Consistent with public health, protection of environmental values and natural resources, and avoidance of conflict among visitor use activities, the Superintendent has determined that restriction of horse and saddle stock is necessary.

The LaVerkin Creek drainage is not suitable for overnight-pack stock use due to designated campsites that are heavily used and not adequate for stock tethering, picketing, or high-lining. Tying of animals is necessary to minimize resource damage, pollution of water sources and destruction of vegetation.

The Kolob Arch trail is not appropriate for saddle stock as it involves scrambling over large boulders, steep slick-rock, and stream bottom areas.

Beartrap Canyon and Willis Creek are narrow canyons characterized by no maintained trail, a number of steep banks, slopes, and stream bottom areas, which make the route unsuitable for stock use.

The East Mesa Trail below its junction with the Observation Point Trail and Zion Canyon trails from the rim to the canyon floor are heavily traveled by hikers, and the trails are often steep and narrow.

Restricting the presence of animals in developed areas is necessary to maintain a non-offensive and sanitary condition in these areas of intensive use.

For the safety of riders, the Sandbench Trail is closed to non-concessioner use during the operation of the concessioner-contracted trail rides.

The Taylor Creek trail, a frontcountry route, is characterized by numerous steep creek banks, steep slopes, and numerous short stream crossings. Large groups of stock with riders create unacceptable resource impacts while standing/stopping in fragile riparian and canyon areas.

Due to problems with the spread of noxious/exotic weeds, all stock using Zion National Park must be fed only certified weed-free hay and feed two days prior to entering the park and using park trails.

## **S2.21 Smoking**

*(a) - Public access areas of public buildings are closed to smoking.*

*Backcountry areas to include trails are closed to smoking from May through September of each year.*

**Justification:** In the interest of fire prevention, this prohibition is consistent with state law and past practice.